



Human rights

Two-day event will host Latin American experts

By MIKE RUST
Of the Emerald

Political and cultural figures of international stature from Latin America and the United States will participate in a human rights conference at the University this week.

The 1981 Northwest Conference on "Human Rights in Crisis: Latin America" will be held

Thursday and Friday.

In a released statement, acting University Pres. Paul Olum says the protection of human rights is "one of the most significant problems that must be faced" in the 1980s but also among the most difficult.

"The theme is of vital importance, the University is a most appropriate setting for such a discussion, and the planned agenda is a splendid one," Olum says.

"I am certain that those who participate will come away with a great deal of new information and understanding about this

most critical of problems," he says. "One can only hope that out of such understanding will sometime, somehow, come action which will secure to all people the basic human freedoms."

Panel discussions and lectures by journalists, scholars and clergy will take place throughout the conference. Among the scheduled lecturers are Chilean poet and author Fernando Alegria, journalist Brennon Jones, Nicaraguan Minister of Culture Fernando Cardenal, and former missionary and current activist William Wipfler.

Alegria has served as Honorary Consul of Chile and as the Chilean Cultural Attache in Washington. He teaches at Stanford University and edits "Literature Chilena en el Exilo," a Chilean exile magazine.

Jones is the Executive Director of Interlink Press Service, the U.S. link to the Inter Press Service, the sixth largest news service in the world. Jones worked on the Academy Award-winning Vietnam documentary, "Hearts and Minds."

Cardenal, a Jesuit priest, heads Nicaragua's National Literature Commission, which has increased that nation's literacy rate from 40 to 83 percent.

Wipfler, an Episcopalian priest, is the director of the National Council of Churches' Human Rights Office and is vice-chair of Amnesty International U.S.A.

Among others participating in the conference is Maria Helena Moreira Alves, an expert on the Brazilian military government and on the attitudes toward

trade unions, political parties and the Catholic Church in that country.

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State James Cheek, Morton Rosenthal, Director of Latin American Affairs of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Oregonian editor Richard Nokes, and former United Nations economist Laurence Birns also will participate.

Anti-Semitism under authoritarian regimes, culture, liberation theology and the "path of reconstruction in Nicaragua" are among the topics to be discussed Thursday. A panel discussion on human rights in Latin America will also be held.

The following day's topics include discussions on El Salvador and labor rights in Latin America. Panel discussions on Central America, the role of the American media in shaping U.S. perspectives on Latin America and human rights options for the upcoming decade also are planned.

The conference charges a \$15 general public registration fee, and \$10 fee for seniors, students and the unemployed. Deadline for advance registration is today.

Panel discussions, as well as opening and welcoming addresses, will be held in the EMU Ballroom. Other sessions will take place at the University with rooms to be announced.

The seminar will be sponsored by the EMU Cultural Forum and the Council for Human Rights in Latin America.

Academic credit is available for conference participants. Information can be obtained at the University office of Continuing Education, 686-4231.

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